

CC/PT/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

15th August 2022

Mr Peadar Toibin TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38150/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional beds introduced in University Hospital Limerick by bed type by year in each of the past 15 years, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Toibin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see below a breakdown outlining inpatient bed capacity at University Hospital Limerick since 2008. Inpatient bed capacity at University Hospital Limerick increased by 155 inpatient beds between 2008 and 2022. In December 2008, University Hospital Limerick had 375 inpatient beds and as of January 2022, there were 530 inpatient beds available at University Hospital Limerick. Please note, this data set reflects year-end inpatient bed capacity at UHL over the time period.

Year	Inpatient bed capacity
2008	375
2009	375
2010	375
2011	380
2012	358
2013	354
2014	356
2015	385
2016	430
2017	447
2018	452
2019	450
2020	450
2021	530
2022 (Jan)	530

We added an additional 98 beds at UHL and an additional 10 critical care beds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021. This new capacity has enabled us to keep vulnerable patients safe, including haematology, oncology and renal patients; to provide a safe pathway for people attending UHL for surgery; and to isolate COVID-19 positive patients.

Other capital developments since 2009 include a €24m Emergency Department which opened in May 2017 at University Hospital Limerick. The adjoining Dialysis Unit, which was completed as part of the same contract, provides state-of-the-art accommodation and facilities for renal patients.

In addition, the Leben Building is a €16.5 million six story building which consists of a Neurological Centre/ Acute Stroke Unit, Breast Unit, Dermatology Centre and Cystic Fibrosis Unit. This building opened in 2016. The Leben building has been financed by the HSE with significant contributions from the Mid-Western Hospitals Development Trust, the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland, TLC4CF, the Parkinson's Association of Ireland and the JP McManus Benevolent Fund.

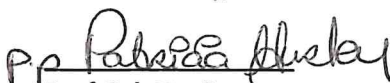
In 2015, a new €40m Critical Care Block at UHL was opened. The facility provides a large range of services, including a Critical Care Unit and High Dependency Unit, a 16 bed Acute Cardiac Care Unit and a step down facility.

Our next significant project in terms of bed capacity is the 96-bed block for UHL. The development of the new four-storey, 96 single bed acute inpatient ward block extension at University Hospital Limerick has full planning permission, fire certification and is fully designed.

It is envisaged that when the new 96-bed block opens, approximately half the beds will be used to replace older bed stock on the UHL site. This stems from a long-identified need to move away from nightingale wards to single en-suite rooms in hospitals due to cross-infection issues.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group